Supply of copies of all orders relating to Stamp Law to the public.

11-10 a.m. * 1099 *Q.*—SRI T. ANANTA PAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state why copies of the proceedings of the Board of Revenue, Government Orders and the opinions of the Advocate-General relating to Stamp Law are not granted to the public?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—" The Government grant copies of their records to the public only in cases in which, in their opinion, there is no objection to do so. The purpose for which the applicant requires the copy is also one of the factors they take into account in deciding whether a copy can be granted or not. They do not grant copies of records which are not intended for communication to the public and are intended only for departmental use."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR:—" Sir, these Board proceedings, etc., referred to in this question are very necessary for the ordinary layman to ascertain the stamp fee he will have to pay. In the public interest, the stamp fee should be made known instead of being allowed to be mystified by the Sub-Registrars and District Registrars. Would Government see that laws, rules and things which vitally affect the interests of the people and which the public should know, are circularized and publicized instead of being kept as a hidden secret?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—" Sir, in most cases, copies are available. Only in cases where they are meant exclusively for departmental use, they are not given to the public. Anyway, I shall examine the matter further."

Extension of B.C.G. Vaccination to mufassal stations.

* 1100 *Q.*—SRI M. S. MOGRAL: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether B.C.G. Vaccination has been extended to mufassal stations; and

(*b*) if so, when and where?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" (*a*) & (*b*) The proposal for the extension of the B.C.G. Vaccination to mufassal stations in the State is under the consideration of the Government."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM:—" Sir, to a similar question in the last session, the Hon. Minister for Health was pleased to say that the question was 'under consideration.' Now also it is said the matter is under consideration. May I know how long it will take to consider the matter?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" There is no Budget provision for this scheme and it is not in the Five-Year Plan. It is a new service and so it has to go before the Cabinet."

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SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, news appeared in the papers that the Government have decided to extend B.C.G. Vaccination to certain areas. But the Hon. Minister now says that it is under consideration. I would like to know whether they have decided to extend it to any particular area."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The proposal is to have a Central Unit with six Field Teams for this purpose to cover a population of one hundred lakhs. The scheme will cost about Rs. 2,38,000. The matter has to go before the Cabinet."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Sir, since the privilege of B.C.G. Vaccination is not given to rural areas, will the Hon. Minister consider giving preference or at least some concession to patients coming from rural areas for admission to T.B. sanatoria? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, I understand that there are a disproportionately large number of patients coming from Malabar district to the Tambaram Sanatorium."

DR. SRIMATHI T. S. SOUNDARAM RAMACHANDRAN :—" Sir, is the Hon. Minister for Health aware that tuberculosis is also widespread in the rural areas, especially amongst the weaver population and so, the B.C.G. Vaccination scheme has to be extended there? May I know whether those areas where a large number of weavers are concentrated would be given preference in this matter? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, it must begin at some place. The idea so far is that it must begin with West Coast districts and Coimbatore."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that there is quite a large volume of opinion against the utility of this vaccine and if so, have the Government made enough research to prove its efficacy beyond any doubt? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There is no need for any such research on B.C.G. Vaccination against tuberculosis. For, experts are unanimously of the opinion that B.C.G. Vaccination is harmless, it gives a great degree of protection—more than 80 per cent—and prominent persons connected with this work on tuberculosis in our country are agreed on this. I wonder where my esteemed Friend sitting on the other side got this information."

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister has expressed the view that the incidence of tuberculosis amongst the Malayalees is very great. May I know whether, after he acquired this knowledge, any steps were taken to reduce the incidence? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, a sanatorium has been opened in Malabar, Government have given aid to it."

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SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Minister, may I know whether the Hon. Minister is aware of the valued opinion of a contemporary medical expert, Dr. Guruswami, who is against this vaccination? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" One swallow cannot make a summer. That may be the opinion of one or two people."

DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Will the Hon. Minister tell us whether experience gained in Scandinavian countries, America and Europe has definitely proved that B.C.G. has made a definite contribution to the prevention of tuberculosis? " (Cheers.)

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Certainly, Sir. That is the expert opinion all over the world."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister was very unfair in the insinuations in answering my question. I made no reference to Malabar, but I made only a reference to rural areas."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, I did not make any insinuation. I thought the hon. Member was naturally interested in his district and so I said that his district had a very good representation at the sanatorium."

Distribution of Ammonium Sulphate.

* 1101 *Q.*—SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the several orders passed by the Government recently for the distribution of ammonium sulphate for manuring purposes in mufassal centres; and

(*b*) how many depots have been sanctioned for South Arcot?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The Government have ordered that the distribution of ammonium sulphate shall be done under the supervision, control and direction of the Board of Revenue (Food Production) and Collectors.

The District Co-operative Wholesale Stores in all the districts except Tanjore and the Tanjore Co-operative Marketing Federation in the Tanjore district will function as stockists of the Government on an agency basis. They will hold stocks of ammonium sulphate at the several rail heads in this State.

For the distribution of ammonium sulphate to the agriculturists, the Collectors of the districts will select two wholesaler-*cum*-retailers in each taluk, of which one will be a co-operative organization. The selected wholesaler-*cum*-retailers will open as many depots as possible subject to a minimum of five depots in a deltaic tract and three depots in a non-deltaic tract in the taluk.